

to pay the \$125 depends on where one's interest in trees lies. From a Victorian viewpoint, most of the additional species are in remote parts of Australia, some with very restricted natural distribution; I couldn't see any extra species for the Victorian area. On the other hand, for the species it does treat, this book gives more informa-

tion on environmental factors and timber characteristics than any other, and if this is interesting or important to the reader, the book is certainly recommended.

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## **Wild Neighbours: The humane approach to living with wildlife**

by Ian Temby; illustrated by Elisabeth Bastian

Publisher: *Citrus Press, Broadway, NSW, 2005. 250 pages. Paperback ISBN 0975102354. RRP \$36.00*



Have you ever had to deal with problem faunal species sharing your house and backyard? This book has all the answers for dealing with a complete range of would-be sharers from bandicoots to wombats and butcherbirds to wattlebirds. Even spiders rate a chapter in this comprehensive coverage of the creatures of our neighbourhoods.

Part 1 is a general coverage with sections on conflict resolution, to feed or not to feed, health issues, and tools and tactics to be used. Part 2 expands this. Each species or species group is assigned a chapter, which provides descriptions and background information on the species, their

habitats and diets and their reproductive strategies. The problems that arise and suggestions for resolving these problems are discussed under the headings Tolerance, Exclusion, Repellents and Live Trapping. Tolerance is always the preferred option, whilst live trapping is not recommended except in extreme cases, and only where permitted by government agency or licensed operator.

Temby is sympathetic to wildlife, particularly species that may not be appreciated by humans, such as crows and ravens which are noted for their intelligence and problem-solving ability, or spiders, which 'can be considered a chemical free pest control service' and snakes, which are often senselessly killed regardless of their importance to the ecosystem. Often a species, such as Masked Lapwing, is admired for its successful adaptation to the urban environment.

Introduced species are also included, and while we may deplore their spread and displacement of our native species, they still add interest to a bland structured streetscape.

This is a very informative and useful book peppered with the author's humorous comments and anecdotal stories of interactions with wildlife. Overall, the emphasis is on how lucky we are to have native wildlife that is willing to share our habitat with us.

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